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COUNTRY Iraq

SUBJECT Dismissal of Jewish Employees of
Iraq Petroleum Company

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A letter of instruction from the Minister of the Interior to the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) urged the IPC to discharge immediately Jewish employees from critical positions. The Commandant of Police at Kirkuk, however, interprets this instruction as requiring the dismissal of all Jewish employees.

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Comment. It is apparent that throughout the country the Iraqi Government is pressing for the dismissal of Jews from any post of employment. The CID, in this respect, is known to be investigating persons for no other reason than that they are suspected of being Jewish, and without reference to Zionist or subversive activities. The intent of the Iraqi Government appears to be the impoverishment of the Jewish minority as a whole. In effect, the Arabs of Iraq have substituted economic persecution for the physical persecution which had been feared at the outbreak of the Palestine war. The net effect has been to lower the efficiency of business and government, depress the market, and create unemployment.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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